



The story of the "treaty of Montr" was an absurd story from the beginning. The reader who retains any recollection of the rumors of the late political contest hardly needs to be reminded that the absurd treaty of Montr was an imagined or asserted agreement between General Garfield and the "stalwarts" whose spokesman is Senator Conkling, that in consideration of their active aid and support, he would surrender to them the control of his administration. This is put somewhat more plainly than the original account stated it, but it is just what that account actually meant. No one, however, believes that General Garfield has hampered himself by engagements in any direction. He was nominated without his seeking, and he is in a position to render large service to the country, particularly in the matter of effecting the deliverance of our system from that philosophy of politics which builds on keeping office-holders in a state of object personal service to "boss" politicians, and through such influence corrupts and prevents our political system, and either tyrannizes over the people or forces revolt from party as the only means of checking the corruption.

Congress is not likely to furnish any real aid towards deliverance of the civil service from this perversion of its objects and uses. The reason is that congress is full of politicians who want to continue the traffic for their own political and personal gain. It is almost idle, therefore, to look to congress for any real measure of civil service reform. The success attained by President Hayes in correcting many of the most flagrant abuses of the spoil system was reached solely because he did not rely on congress for aid, but ignored "senatorial privilege," and refused to recognize the right of senators or representatives to make appropriations to office-holders or congressmen. He simply took his stand upon the constitution which gives to the executive the appointing power, and, courageously setting aside all traditional precedents, nominated for positions in the civil service those whom he believed were best fitted to discharge the duties of public office. It was because in this he was an entirely original policy proposed by congress, and was heartily sustained by the people. Congressmen said that the policy he adopted should be followed out to its legitimate conclusion by himself and his successors, the group which situated in house would be with him, and the whole structure of senatorial privilege and congressional power would be of federal power would fall to the ground. On the other hand, the people saw that if President Hayes policy were carried out, the civil service would be thoroughly cleaned and purified, and that individual character and ability would be the only recognized claim for appointment to office.

But congress would not acknowledge the wisdom or rightness of such policy, nor can it be brought to knowledge that till the change shall have become well established, for those who imagine they make senators and representatives may have their rewards, which are paid them by appointment to office. The average senator has his political friends and helpers to take care of. They work for him and he may pay them. However, they both understand that they are to be paid in the political currency of official patronage. One has done great service in clearing up, or retaining the senator in his seat, and in this is given a position of cronyism, house, and another has done less service in a congressional convention or election, and to him is given the position of lever carrier or jin-warrior. These are accounted for every known to every one at all acquainted with the operations of the political machine. Senators are made, these times, chiefly of poor stuff. Many have no commanding force of intellect to sustain them, and must rely on party expedients, arts and intrigues. The prevalent style of politics produces such senators, and they in turn uphold this style of politics. The system thus perpetuates itself in our vicious circle. It rules the class of men most fit for the national councils—men who will not descend to the composition of unscrupulous political intrigues and forces upon party and country a class who never rise above it. A demand that congress shall enact a wide and comprehensive law for reform of the civil service is in effect a demand that men of poor stuff shall be taken away the staff on which they lean for support, and which, if taken away, would reduce them to mediocrities, and force them into insignificance. Hence no masters now stand there to lift up the poor stuff, and the only congress in controlling the condition of the civil service. On the condition of the public service will chiefly rest. All the reform depends on any degree on the action of congress, and will come be accomplished by the action of congress in the country as far as it can be referred to the civil service. The public service is the only civil service which can be purified and purified. Indeed, the examples are not wanting, but the examples are not arranged to where it was when he entered into the work of reforming it. But it is believed that the course of President Hayes will fully in accord with that of President Hayes. No president ever had larger opportunities for serving the public a great service than President Hayes, and he will have the opportunity to do it in the place where President Hayes leaves it, and in continuing an administration of the civil service independent of party, and the administration of that "boss" system.

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**M. W. STONE AS CURRENDY.**

We print a letter from Walla Walla, in advocacy of silver currency. It prints several paragraphs which need not be noticed in detail, since they may be supposed better by a general statement covering them all. The reasons for opposing, continued, and unlimited coining of legal tender silver are many. It is to be observed, first, that we are coining it at a rate ten per cent below the value of gold. It should be apparent to every person that if this goes on we shall in time have an exclusive silver currency. When silver enough shall have coined to constitute the basis of currency, it will, as the cheaper metal, undeniably take the place of gold, and if we continue to coin silver at the rate of \$20,000,000 a month, that consequence can not be distant. In the next place silver is subject to fluctuations so violent that it should not be made the basis of circulation. Gold is far easier, and therefore gold, or currency based on gold, is the better measure of values. Our present policy tends surely to the entire substitution of silver for gold. That consequence will follow if we do not change the policy. Much that is said about maintaining a "double standard" is misleading. We have never been able to maintain it, for either silver, or gold has at every period of our history been the dearer metal on our basis of coinage, and therefore they have never circulated freely together. In other countries which have the so-called double standard, silver is in fact kept in the subordinate place by limitation of its coinage. Commercial nations which want stable values employ the gold basis. Silver is the excitatory currency of such nations as the Chinese, the Arabs and the Hindoo. True, certain great commercial nations, as France and the United States, had a great deal of silver. But in France this is done by proper recognition of the true place of silver. France is the leading member of a union composed of several states, which agree to coin silver which will be coined and not exceed that limit. The true place of silver, in any currency, is a secondary one.

For subsidiary coinage, with limited legal tender power, the function of silver is a most important one. Our circulation will take up many millions of silver of this description. It will even carry a large amount of legal tender silver, without seriously disturbing gold. But it will not carry long the amount the mint is now turning out, without depleting gold. There appears to be no good reason why we should debase and degrade our currency. They who oppose the present policy do not object to the use of silver, but insist on the right use of it. It is said, however, that our country is the greatest producer of silver, and therefore should not "disheson" it. Now, in fact, silver is being valued by a law which is wholly above our legislation. No legal enactment can add to or detract from that value. The world's law gives to silver, as well as gold, the value it possesses. It is a common remark that silver mining is one of our most important and valuable interests, but that may be open to great doubt. It is the most wasteful form of industry among us. In proportion to the labor, it pays less than any other. And besides it is the basis of stock piling, which has denazified nearly the whole population of the Pacific slope. Were the industry employed in this direction and the capital wasted in it employed in other ways, there can hardly be a doubt that the result would be infinitely better, both in an economic and moral point of view.

**ALEXANDER HAMILTON.**

All the leading New York dailies of November 20 have editorials on Alexander Hamilton. The occasion was the presentation to the city and the nation of the bust of Hamilton, the now venerable son of the great statesman. The statue is granite, and represents Hamilton as standing in the act of speaking, in the costume of revolutionary days, and wearing on his left breast the badge of the society of the Cincinnati. Tribune paid by all the journals to Hamilton as the most remarkable and illustrious man known to America. The Herald says: "His sphere of action was not commensurate with his ability, but intellectually he was the greatest man of his age, although it was the age of Pitt and Napoleon." The Tribune speaks of him as the man who "began statesmanship in his teens, was the honored associate and colleague of the leaders of the new republic at an age when the average man of parts is taking his college diploma, and recorded in his short life an imperishable name." The Times says: "He was the greatest of the statesmen to whom we owe the establishment of our government. His reputation is beyond the reach of detractors; his service to this country is hardly capable of overestimation, and the placing of his statue at this late day in the chief popular resort of the American metropolis is a fitting and inadequate recognition of the fact which all generations in the United States will love him."

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The Cincinnati Board of equalization, appointed to equalize the value of real property on the city tax duplicate, amounting in round figures to \$150,000,000, consists of five members, not one of whom is taxed for a dollar's worth of real estate. It is a remarkable instance of placing weighty responsibility in irresponsible hands. But we do not see how for example? The tax base consists of the value of all property in the city, and the tax base is only sold to represent any noticeable part of the city's wealth of material property.

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The South Carolina legislature has voted politically as follows: Senate—Democrats 32, Republicans 2, House—Democrats 100, Republicans 4. This is tolerably "solid" for a state where the republicans have at least 50,000 majority on a full vote, free ballot and full count. The new Texas legislature has 2 republicans and 20 democrats in the senate, and 8 republicans and 70 democrats in the house. And we may add that the state of Oregon is the only solidly representative state of the city's wealth of material property.

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